

S.C. Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main Street, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201

Helping You Gain Access to
Higher Education

Scholarships
and
Grants

Administered by the
SC Commission on Higher
Education



Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
Lottery Tuition Assistance
LIFE Scholarship
SC HOPE Scholarship
SC Need-based Grant



Mission Statement

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education will promote quality and efficiency in the State system of higher education with the goal of fostering economic growth and human development in South Carolina.

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The Student Services Division of the Commission is responsible for coordinating activities including:

- ◆ Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- ◆ Lottery Tuition Assistance Program
- ◆ LIFE Scholarship
- ◆ SC HOPE Scholarship
- ◆ SC Need-based Grant
- ◆ Veteran Education and Training Benefits
- ◆ Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)
- ◆ Higher Education Awareness Program (HEAP)

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General Eligibility Criteria for All
Scholarship and Grant Programs

- ◆ Must be a South Carolina resident;
- ◆ Must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident;
- ◆ Must be enrolled as degree-seeking student at eligible South Carolina public or independent institutions;
- ◆ Must not owe a refund or repayment on a State Grant or Scholarship, Pell Grant, or a Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and not be in default on a loan under the Federal Perkins Loan or Federal Stafford Loan Program; and
- ◆ Must have never been convicted of any felonies and have not been convicted of any alcohol/drug-related misdemeanor offenses within the past academic year (excluding Lottery Tuition Assistance).

Contact Information:

For detailed information about the scholarship and grant programs administered by the SC Commission on Higher Education:

- ◆ Visit our website at www.che.sc.gov
- ◆ Call us at 803-737-2260 or toll-free at 877-349-7183



Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

The South Carolina General Assembly established the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program in 1988 to retain academically talented high school graduates in the State through awards based on merit. Eligible full-time students may receive the following awards:

Up to \$6,700 each academic year toward the cost of attendance at an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina for a maximum of eight terms.

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

Applications for early awards must be submitted to the Commission on Higher Education for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by the date established in *December* each academic year. High school seniors may apply if they meet one of the two following academic requirements (students cannot use these criteria to meet the final award criteria):

- ◆ Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 on the ACT)¹ by the November test administration, earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA² on the SC Uniform Grading Scale (UGS) at the end of the junior year, and rank in the top six percent³ of the class at the end of either the sophomore or the junior year; or
- ◆ Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT)¹ by the November test administration and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA² on the SC UGS at the end of the junior year.

Applications for final awards must be submitted to the Commission on Higher Education for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by the date established in *June* each academic year. High school seniors may apply if they meet one of the two following academic requirements:

- ◆ Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 on the ACT)¹ by the June national test administration of the senior year; earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA² on the SC UGS at the end of the senior year, and rank in the top six percent³ of the senior class at the end of the senior year; or
- ◆ Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT)¹ by the June national test administration and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA² on the SC UGS at the end of the senior year.

Students must not be a recipient of the LIFE Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance.

For application information, please contact your high school guidance counselor if you meet the above criteria.

¹ The score on the SAT must be calculated by using the highest Math score combined with the highest Critical Reading score (formerly know as the Verbal score). Students cannot use the Writing subsection score to meet the minimum SAT score. Students may use either the SAT version prior to March 2005 and/or the new SAT to obtain the qualifying score. The score on the ACT is determined based on the composite score at one test sitting.

² GPAs must be reported to at least two decimal places and cannot be rounded.

³ Rank is calculated by multiplying the number in class by six percent. If the resulting percent is not a whole number, then round it up to the next whole number. For example, a class size of 185 students allows the top 12 students to be included in the top six percent. (185 x 6% = 11.1, rounded to the next whole number of 12)



Lottery Tuition Assistance Program

The Lottery Tuition Assistance Program was established under the SC Education Lottery Act in 2001. Award amounts are dependant upon the number of students eligible and the amount of funding available each academic year.

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

- ◆ Must complete and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each academic year or complete a FASFA Waiver (only available to certain students);
- ◆ Must be enrolled for a minimum of six credit hours and be degree-seeking each term;
- ◆ Must not be recipients of a LIFE, Palmetto Fellows or SC HOPE Scholarship during the academic year (fall, spring or summer terms);
- ◆ Must not receive Lottery Tuition Assistance for more than one certificate, diploma, or degree earned within any five-year period unless the additional certificate, diploma, or degree constitutes progress in the same field of study; and
- ◆ Must meet all general eligibility criteria.



LIFE Scholarship Program

The South Carolina General Assembly established the Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Program in 1998 to increase access to higher education, improve employability of South Carolina's students, provide incentives for students to be better prepared for college, and to encourage students to graduate from college on time. Eligible full-time students may receive the following awards:

- ◆ Up to \$5,000 (including a \$300 book allowance) each academic year towards the cost of attendance at an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina. Limited to ten (10) terms for the first approved five-year bachelor's degree program or eight (8) terms for the first bachelor's degree program; or
- ◆ Up to the cost of tuition plus a \$300 book allowance each academic year at an eligible two-year public or technical institution in South Carolina. At the two-year independent institution in South Carolina, students may receive up to the maximum average of the cost of tuition at the two-year USC regional campuses. Limited to two (2) terms for the first one-year program or four (4) terms for the first associate's degree program or a two-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree.

Initial Eligibility at Four-year Institutions:

Students must meet two of the following three criteria:

1. Earn at a least a 3.0 cumulative GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale upon high school graduation
2. Rank in the top 30 percent of the graduating class
3. Score at least 1100 on the SAT (or 24 on the ACT) through June of the senior year. Only the math and critical reading scores of the SAT may be included.

Initial Eligibility at Two-year Institutions:

- ◆ Graduate from high school with at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale

Students Must Also:

- ◆ Be SC residents at the time of high school graduation and college enrollment;
- ◆ Not be recipients of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance; and
- ◆ Meet all general eligibility criteria.

There is no application required for the LIFE Scholarship. The eligible institution will notify students if they qualify for the Scholarship.



SC HOPE Scholarship Program

The SC HOPE Scholarship Program was established under the SC Education Lottery Act in 2001. It is a one-year merit-based Scholarship created for eligible first-time entering freshmen attending an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina. Eligible full-time students may receive the following awards:

Up to \$2,650 (including a \$150 book allowance) toward the cost of attendance for a maximum of two terms.

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

- ◆ Earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA on the SC Uniform Grading Scale upon high school graduation;
- ◆ Be SC residents at the time of high school graduation and college enrollment;
- ◆ Not be recipients of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, LIFE Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance; and
- ◆ Meet all general eligibility criteria.

There is no application required for the SC HOPE Scholarship. The eligible institution will notify students if they qualify for the Scholarship.



SC Need-based Grant Program

The South Carolina General Assembly established the South Carolina Need-based Grant Program in 1996 to provide additional financial assistance to South Carolina's neediest students. Eligible full-time students may receive the following awards:

If enrolled full-time, students may receive up to \$2,500 per year and if enrolled part-time, students may receive up to \$1,250 per year for a maximum of eight full-time equivalent terms.

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

- ◆ Must complete and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each academic year;
- ◆ Must be enrolled and attending or have completed at the time of the grant disbursement a minimum of six credit hours if part-time or twelve credit hours if full-time for the term; and
- ◆ Must meet all general eligibility criteria.